

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-04 SAM-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4227

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5917

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: COALITION TALKS

REF: TEL AVIV 5640

1. SUMMARY: NEGOTIATIONS TO BRING NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) INTO GOVT COALITION ADVANCED ONE NOTCH WITH VOTE OF LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OCT 16 OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF MOTION. NRP CENTRAL COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO MEET NEXT WEEK, IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE JOINING COALITION. WHILE OTHER COALITION MEMBERS MAY CHALLENGE NRP OVER ITS ROLE IN ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT EFFORTS AND ITS INSISTENCE THAT IT RETAIN RIGHT TO VOTE AGAINST GOVT ON WEST BANK TERRITORIAL WITHDRAWAL, THEY ARE UNLIKELY TO BLOCK SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR COALITION. END SUMMARY.

2. LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OCT 16 APPROVAL BY VOTE OF 151 FOR, TWO AGAINST AND FIVE ABSTENTIONS, MOTION IN FAVOR OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY JOINING GOVT COALITION, AND AUTHORIZED PARTY LEADERSHIP TO EXPEDITE COALITION NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ATTEMPT TO HAVE LABOR FORMALLY CONDEMN NRP'S GUSH EMUNIM FOR LATTER'S ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT EFFORTS WAS BLOCK, AS WAS ATTEMPT TO CONDEMN SOME LABOR PARTY KNESSET MEMBERS FOR SIGNING LIKUD PETITION. PM RABIN, HOWEVER, AGAIN
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SPOKE OUT STRONGLY AGAINST ILLEGAL EFFORTS IN GENERAL, AND STRESSED

THAT NRP WOULD HAVE TO ADHERE TO GOVT POLICY ON SETTLEMENTS.
HE STATED THAT COALITION AGREEMENT EMPOWERS CABINET TO NEGOTIATE
WITH JORDAN AND NOTED THAT AN AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN INVOLVING
TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS WOULD NOT BE CONCLUDED PRIOR TO NATIONAL
ELECTION OF ONE OF COALITION PARTNERS REQUESTS.

4. NRP LEADERS, DISCUSSION WITH PM RABIN PRIOR TO LABOR
PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, REPORTEDLY STATED THAT IF
NRP JOINS COALITION IT WOULD NOT PUT ASIDE ANY OF ITS PRINCIPLES
AND WOULD VOTE IN THE CABINET AND KNESSET AGAINST TERRITORIAL
CONCESSIONS ON WEST BANK. PENDING FURTHER CLARIFICATION FROM
RABIN, NRP IS TO MEET NEXT WEEK, REPORTEDLY OCT 24, TO APPROVE
JOINING COALITION.

5. CITIZENS RIGHTS MOVEMENT HAS YET TO DECIDE ON WHETHER IT
WILL REMAIN IN COALITION INCLUDING NRP. INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY
AND MAPAM HAVE APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE NRP JOINING COALITION
BUT LATTER PARTY HAS DEMANDED THAT NRP PUBLICLY CONDEMN ILLEGAL
SETTLEMENT EFFORTS.

6. COMMENT: WHILE YOUTH WING GROUP IN NRP EXPECTED TO
OPPOSE JOINING COALITION, AND MAY FIND ADDED SUPPORT AS RESULT OF
DAYAN'S SIGNATURE OF LIKUD PETITION OPPOSING RETURN
OF JUDEA AND SAMARIA TO "FOREIGN RULE," IT IS GENERALLY EXPECTED
THAT MAJORITY OF NRP CENTRAL COMMITTEE WILL APPROVE. RABIN LIKELY
TO GET COMPROMISE FROM MAPAM ON GROUNDS THAT IN
JOINING COALITION, NRP WILL ADHERE TO GOVT POLICY ON
SETTLEMENTS AND TO INITIATION OF TALKS WITH JORDAN.
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